

## Cattle Inventory Remains Steady in Wisconsin

Cattle and calves on Wisconsin farms totaled 3.35 million head as of January 1, 2005, unchanged from a year ago. An early January survey of more than 1,600 cattle producers in the state showed how Wisconsin cattle numbers have changed.

Wisconsin's milk cow inventory, at 1.24 million head, declined 10,000 head from January 1, 2004. Nationally, Wisconsin ranked second in the number of milk cows. There were 588 fewer licensed milk cow herds on January 1, 2005, compared to January 1, 2004. The decline in the number of Wisconsin milk cow herds was less than the previous year's loss of 942 herds.

Milk cow heifer replacements, at 650,000 head, decreased 20,000 from a year earlier. Milk cow heifer replacements are defined as heifers weighing 500 pounds or more (including heifers not yet of breeding age) which are intended to enter the milking string in the future.

Statewide, beef cow numbers remained constant at 245,000 cows. Beef cow heifer replacements, at 70,000 head, decreased 5,000 from January 1, 2004. Steers increased 10,000 to 360,000 head on January 1, 2005.

Nationally, cattle and calves on January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, up 1 percent from the previous year. Wisconsin remained ninth in the nation for the number of all cattle and calves.

## Cattle and Calves — January 1, Wisconsin and U.S.

Class	Wisconsin		United States	
	2005	Change	2005	Change
	1,000 hd	Percent	1,000 hd	Percent
All cattle and calves	3,350	n.c.	95,848	+1
All cows	1,480	-1	42,060	+1
Beef cows	245	n.c.	33,055	+1
Milk cows	1,235	-1	9,005	n.c.
Heifers 500 lbs & over	800	-2	19,673	+2
For beef cow replacement	70	-7	5,746	+4
For milk cow replacement	650	-3	4,133	+3
Other heifers	80	+7	9,793	n.c.
Steers 500 lbs & over	360	+3	16,511	+1
Bulls 500 lbs & over	30	n.c.	2,219	+1
Calves under 500 lbs	680	+3	15,385	+1
	2004	Change	2004	Change
Calf crop	1,320	-2	37,625	-1

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.